



## Let's Jump In!

- The goal of the River is to help you find the best paths to move your vision into action!
- You can find the River at: <https://www.fairshake-els.org/community-organizing-resources>.
- Ask yourself questions #1-4. Write down your answers & thoughts on the blank line.
- Walk through the river, using your vision, river spot, strengths, and decision-making power to help find paths in the river that you can impact using your vision, situation, strengths, and power.
- Use the light grey boxes on page 3 to keep track of ideas and potential paths that jump out at you as you are going through the river.



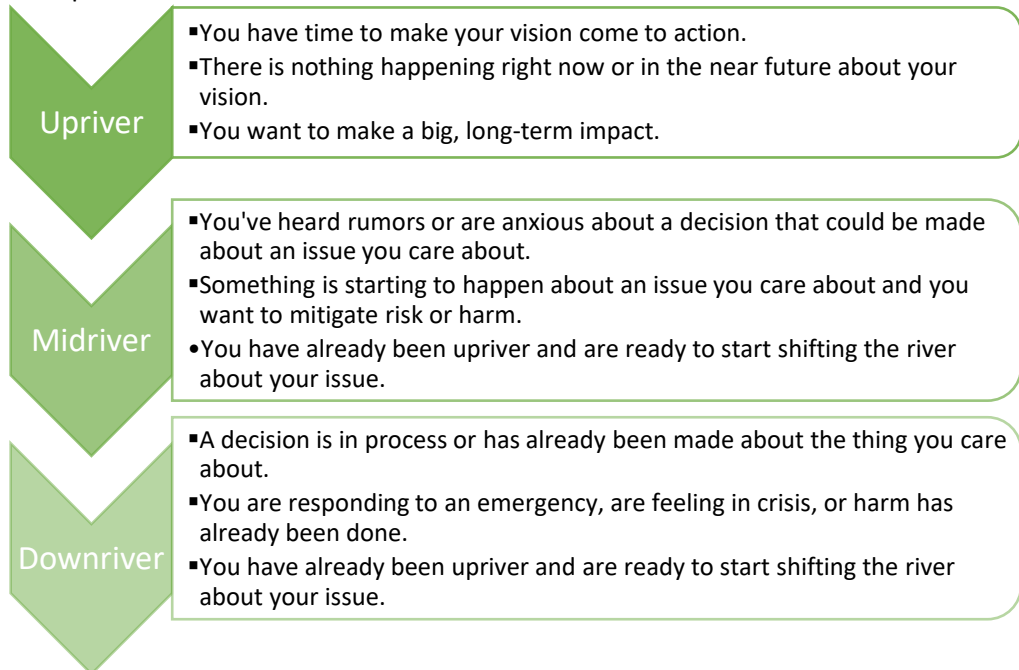
### 1. What is your vision?

- What does your dream community feel, look, smell, and sound like if you are successful?
- What do you see happening in your community when everyone can thrive?
- What are the best possibilities for your community?



### 2. What spot are you in the river?

- The further you go upriver, the bigger, more systemic, and long-term impact you can have.
- You can be in between river points - if you are, draw ideas from both points.
- The river points can build on each other - you might start upriver and work your way downriver, or start downriver and draw ideas from mid- or upriver.
- River points:



### 3. What are your gifts, strengths, and skills<sup>1</sup>?

**Relationship building & Feeling** - do you build and nurture strong relationships, and build bonds between others?

○You may.. be adaptable, believe things happen for a reason, believe in and love to help others, can feel the emotions of others, always helping others to find agreement, include others and make them feel welcomed, see each person's uniqueness, see the glass as 'half full', have a few really close friends.

**Influencing & Motivating** – do you take charge, speak up, and make sure others are heard?

○You may... speak up, take charge, be able to explain things and use your words well, be competitive, strive for excellence, believe in yourself, like to be appreciated and stand out from others, love meeting new people and getting them to like you.

**Strategy & Thinking** – do you see and stretch thinking for the future?

○You may... ask lots of questions, like having 'hard data', learn from what's happened in the past, dream about the future, get excited about new ideas, love to learn new things, love to think things through, find the best way forward even when things are confusing.

**Executing & Doing** – do you make things turn into reality?

●You may... love to get things done, keep track of lots of moving pieces, have strong core values that give you direction, expect rules to be applied to everyone, plan ahead, love routines, set goals for yourself, feel responsible to follow-through, love to solve problems

### 4. Where is your decision-making power?

- Are you a community member, active in your community, or local/municipal decision-maker?
- Are you working by yourself, with a few others, or with a large group of people who care?
- Do you have a lot of time and energy to commit to your ideas?

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Clifton Strengths: <https://www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths/en/253715/34-cliftonstrengths-themes.aspx>

# Community Democracy River

LET'S JUMP IN!



Now look at the different levers in the River and in the Current. Write down which levers and activities appeal to you and think would help you move your vision forward, and the pros and cons of those options.

Once you figure out which option(s) work best for you, turn that into a goal on page 3 and get started!

	Pros & Positives	Cons & Challenges
Option 1		
Option 2		
Option 3		
Option 4		
Option 5		

# Community Democracy River

LET'S JUMP IN!



Fair Shake®  
Environmental Legal Services

Name:

Vision:

Goal:

Next Steps	Timeline	Ideas, Questions, Needs, and Updates	Check when done
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>